

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend the second paragraph on page 10 of the specification as follows:

If the request is validated, the process includes steps for assessing the network's ability to handle the request (step 54). To perform such a network capability assessment, a network database 56 is utilized to determine the remaining capacity, or bandwidth, or each link in the network. The capacity requested for setting up a virtual connection from ingress node 20 to egress node 24 has to meet QoS parameters within the network. If it is determined that there is insufficient network capacity of handling the reservation request (step 58), an alternate capability proposal is derived with request to the requesting source workstation (step 60). In such a case, this new capability may be either a lower bandwidth or a lower QoS, which is then sent back to the requesting workstation (step 62). While the alternate capability is being delivered the requesting workstation, an updating message is transmitted to the edge nodes as explained blow with reference to Figure 5.